

## Why participate in RITT?

- **Need:** Most elders receive healthcare in primary care settings. Health and safety issues may be a concern during the clinic visit. This program aims to enhance recognition of these common concerns and support clinic efficiency to manage complex care.
- **Practice Outcomes:**
  - Identify when elder is at immediate risk for health or safety.
  - Communicate health & safety risks within health care team.
  - Screen for health & safety risks, including falls and changes in activities of daily living.
  - Distinguish dementia, delirium, and depression.
  - Recognize impacts of changes in everyday function and thinking, as well as caregiving stresses.
  - Understand principles of an age friendly healthcare system.
- **Advantages:** On-site, 1-day or ½ day options, resources provided, accredited for CME/CEU at no cost. Virtual option may be available, if preferred.

## Coordinating Sites

VISN 2 GRECC at James J. Peters VAMC  
Judith L. Howe, PhD, VA RITT Project Director  
&  
Greater Los Angeles GRECC  
Josea Kramer, PhD, Director, Geriatric Scholars  
Program and IHS-RITT Project Director

### **Improving care for elders through team training of clinic teams & community social service providers**

Funded by the VA Office of Rural Health

### **For more information about the “Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training in Care of Elders”**

#### **please contact:**

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## **Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training in Care of Elders**



for Indian Health Services and Tribal  
Health Programs

### **A training program of the VA Geriatric Scholars Program**

Hubsite: Geriatric Research Education &  
Clinical Center (GRECC) at the VA  
Greater Los Angeles Health Care System  
*Josea Kramer, PhD, Director*

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Health Administration  
Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers



## Program Details

**Participants:** All members of a rural clinic including, physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, public health nurses, social workers, pharmacists, psychologists, occupational and physical therapists, licensed practical and vocational nurses, program support assistants, clerks, community health representatives, health educators and other professional and paraprofessional staff. The clinic may invite others working in community health, safety and elder services to attend.

### Workshop learning methods used:

- Case Studies
- Lectures
- Interactive Discussion
- Interactive Video
- Brainstorming

**Faculty:** IHS-RITT faculty are nationally recognized experts. The program is co-facilitated by a geriatrician and an educator from a VA Geriatrics, Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of Excellence and the UCLA Division of Geriatric Medicine.

## Topics

- Team-based care for older patients
- Recognizing health & safety risks for elders
- Geriatrics Syndromes: How are older patients different from all other patients and why it matters?
- Dementia, Delirium and Depression
- Activities of Daily Living
- Evidence-based brief screening tools
- Resources for Primary Care Providers
- Impact of COVID19 on elders well-being

**Evaluation:** All training participants complete a very brief survey to evaluate the training, an option to create an action plan to promote practice change, plus a standard online course evaluation that is required for CME/CEU.

**CME/CEU is available at no charge!**

### Half day and full-day program options

RITT is accredited by the VA Employee Education System for 3.5 or 6.5 CME/CEU: Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Social Work, Dietetics, Occupational and Physical Therapists

## Goals

- ◇ Educate primary care clinicians and staff about common conditions in older persons
- ◇ Increase team-based expertise in care of elders
- ◇ Incorporate team-based geriatrics knowledge and skills into primary care clinic practices

Since its inception in FY 2011, the RITT workforce development program has been conducted at more than 180 rural VA, Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Program clinics, educating more than 2000 primary care teams, staff and other providing care to elders.